Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

# Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 299063
ORIGIN AF-10

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66011
DRAFTED BY:AF/I:LGSHURTLEFF:PCS
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----------053551 151508Z /44
R 150624Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO OAU COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 299063

FOLLOWING REPEAT ADDIS ABABA 6844 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO MOGADISCIO NAIROBI CAIRO DJIBOUTI JIDDA KHARTOUM LONDON PARIS SANA USCINCEUR DEC 13.
QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6844

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PBOR, SHUM,ET, SO, OREP (TSONGAS, PAUL AND BONKER, DON)

SUBJECT: MENGISTU ON CROSSING SOMALI BORDER, OAU NEGOTIATIONS, NON-ALIGNMENT.

1. FOLLOWING FORTHRIGHT DISCUSSIONS AT MOFA MORNING DEC 13 WITH CONGRESSMAN TSONGAS ON ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION AND ETHIO-US RELATIONS, CHAIRMAN MENGISTU AGREED RECEIVE CODEL TSONGAS/BONKER EVENING SAME DAY. (CONGRESSMAN BONKER'S ARRIVAL HAD BEEN DELAYED BY TEMPORARY CLOSING ADDIS AIRPORT DUE SOVIET PLANE'S BEING STUCK ON RUNWAY.) AT MEETING ATTENDED BY BOTH CONGRESSMEN, CHARGE' AND SALTER, MENGISTU STATED CATEGORICALLY, "WE HAVE NO OBJECTIVE OF CROSSING OUR BORDER ONCE WE HAVE THROWN OUT SOMALIS. WE ARE NOT GOING TO REPEAT SAME MISTAKE SOMALIS MADE." MADE POINT OAU DOES NOT HAVE MILITARY FORCE SO NO ONE SHOULD EXPECT IT TO IMPOSE POLITICAL SOLUTION. MENGISTU ALSO REAFFIRMED POLICY OF
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NON-ALIGNMENT AND DESIRE FOR FRIENDS IN WEST AS WELL AS EAST.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION CONCERNING CURRENT VIOLENCE IN ETHIOPIA MENGISTU SAID HE WOULD NOT HIDE SITUATION. "CERTAIN MEASURES ARE BEING TAKEN ON THE SPOT", BUT HE INDICATED THEY ARE NECESSARY TO DEFEND REVOLUTION IN PERIOD WHEN ELECTED OFFICIALS ARE BEING ASSASSINATED.

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3. EMBASSY IS ENCOURAGED BY THIS LATEST EVIDENCE OF IMPORTANCE EPMG ATTACHES TO US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS.

4. MENGISTU HAD A LOT TO SAY ABOUT REVOLUTION AND RELATIONS WITH USSR WHOSE COURAGE HE BELIEVES US SHOULD ADMIRE. FULLER ANALYSIS AND REPORTING WILL FOLLOW.

5. EMBASSY NAIROBI SHOULD ALERT LOCAL PRESS THAT CODEL WILL WISH TO ISSUE PRESS RELEASE ON ETHIOPIA SEGMENT OF VISIT AFTER ARRIVAL. PRESS CONFERENCE WOULD BE WELCOME.
MATHERON
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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# Message Attributes

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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
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**Disposition History:** n/a
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